

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Protective helmet (1)-comprising a deformable internal foam liner-(7), a plurality of rigid external shell segments (9)-arranged on the foam liner (7)-so as to form at least one crown segment-(9a), at least one occipital segment (9b)-and a plurality of transverse side segments-(9e), and joining means made of flexible material performing joining between the shell segments-(9), helmet ~~characterized in that~~wherein the shell segments (9)-and the joining means made of flexible material (8,17)-are joined to the foam liner (7)-in such a way as to enable a slight sliding between the foam liner (7)-and at least a part of the shell segments-(9).

2. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising at least one front segment-(9d).

3. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~one of the claims 1 and 2~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising at least four transverse side segments-(9e).

4. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising a headband adjustment means (14)-fixedly secured at least to the occipital segment-(9b).

5. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the adjustment means (14)-comprise a lace (20)-joining the shell segments (9)-to one another and cooperating with a knurled knob (21)-actuating tightening and loosening of the helmet (1).

6. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the adjustment means (14)-comprise a tab (23)-equipped with plurality of teeth (24)-forming a

rack and designed to cooperate with a pinion ~~(25)~~ fixedly secured to the occipital segment ~~(9b)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising a textile surface covering the shell segments ~~(9)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the joining means made of flexible material are formed by a cap ~~(8)~~ completely covering the foam liner ~~(7)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the cap ~~(8)~~ comprises compartments ~~(13)~~ inside which the shell segments ~~(9)~~ are housed.

10. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the joining means made of flexible material are formed by strips ~~(17)~~ joining the shell segments ~~(9)~~ to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the strips ~~(17)~~ are made of elastomer.

12. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the flexible joining material is made from an anti-perforation fabric improving airing.

13. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the foam liner ~~(7)~~ comprises a plurality of cut-outs ~~(11)~~ offset with respect to the separating gaps ~~(10)~~ between the shell segments ~~(9)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 13~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the foam liner ~~(7)~~ comprises a plurality of thinned zones ~~(16)~~ offset with respect to the separating gaps ~~(10)~~ between the shell segments ~~(9)~~.

15. Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 14~~claim 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the foam liner (7) comprises a plurality of superposed sheets (27) forming a multi-layer structure.

16. Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the foam liner (7) is made of polymer foam of the expanded polypropylene type presenting good compression shock-absorbing and flexion elasticity characteristics.

17. Helmet according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, characterized in ~~that~~it comprisescomprising a plurality of additional shell segments (18) joined to the foam liner (7) and arranged facing the separating gaps (10) between the shell segments (9).